

# Glenwood Springs Colorado

## *A Rural Community with a Thriving Tourism & Recreational Economy Faces a Major Threat from a Harmful Mine Expansion Proposal*



The City of Glenwood Springs, a world-class tourism and outdoor recreation destination since the 1800s located on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains at the confluence of the Colorado and Roaring Fork Rivers, faces a fundamental threat to its future. A company with a small, illegally-operated limestone mine on the mountain overlooking the community proposes to expand that Transfer Trail Mine by 5,000%, to allow mining 12 hours per day, blasting from 9am-4pm, and hauling out as many as 500 trucks per day for years.



Although the company owner and expansion applicant Rocky Mountain Resources (RMR) is in non-compliance with its current, small mining permit on these federal public lands, it now seeks an Operating Plan modification from the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to allow this drastic, harmful mine expansion to happen to Glenwood Springs. **The City of Glenwood Springs requests federal action to stop this mountain from crashing down upon the local economy:**

- **Non-Compliance Findings:** BLM should conduct public hearings and make proper findings, determinations and penalties for non-compliance by RMR under its current permit violations – in particular, BLM should immediately cease all operations that are non-compliant;
- **EIS:** BLM should require RMR to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement process under NEPA to identify the significant effects the proposed mining expansion will have on the quality of the human environment;
- **Real Public Information:** BLM has still not responded to Glenwood Springs' June 2018 FOIA requests for records and documents concerning the Trail Transfer Mine, despite a legal requirement to respond within 20 days. Real information should be promptly provided to the Glenwood Springs public.
- **CO Congressional Delegation Support:** Glenwood Springs and the region call for support from our Colorado Congressional delegation – stand with the public values and regional economy of Glenwood Springs. We request public statements from Senator Cory Gardner, Senator Michael Bennet, and Congressman Scott Tipton opposing the mine and asking BLM to take action on non-compliance, respond to FOIA requests, and require a full EIS.

Located between Vail and Aspen in the renowned Glenwood Canyon, Glenwood Springs is a small city with an economy based on travel, tourism, outdoor recreation, fishing, hospitality, hot springs, and other sectors that depend upon the mountains, rivers, clear skies, and sounds of nature. The City is one of Colorado's first tourist destinations with the establishment of historic Hot Springs Pool in 1888. The Hotel Colorado soon followed in 1893 and was quickly an American Presidential favorite with visits from William Howard Taft and Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. See

[www.VisitGlenwood.com](http://www.VisitGlenwood.com).

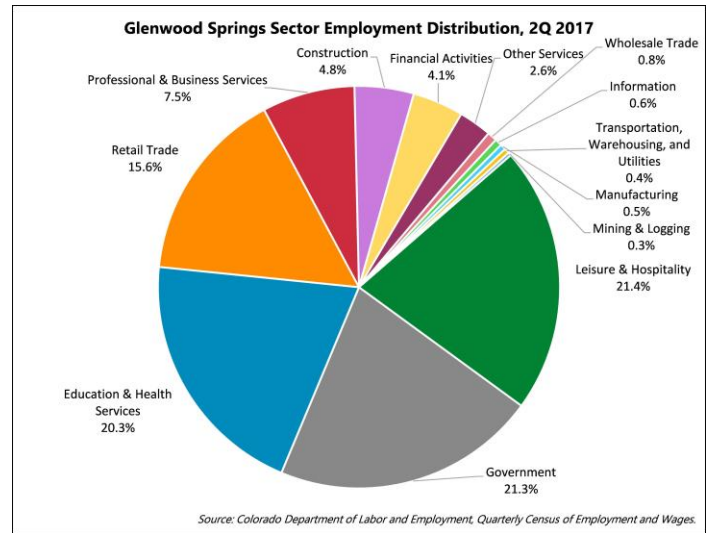
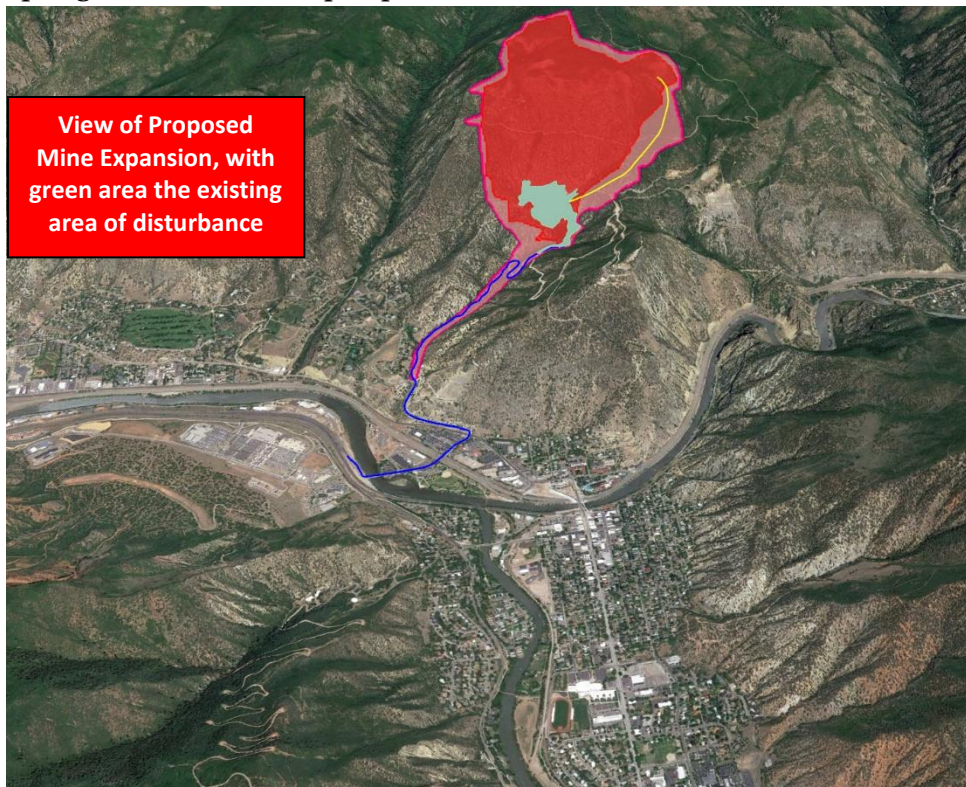
While Glenwood has always held a special place in the hearts of Coloradans, it has recently gained significant federal and state support to truly sparkle. The investment of \$125,000,000 to replace the Grand Avenue Bridge and \$7,000,000 in US DOT BUILD funding has set Glenwood on a spectacular path. Currently the local economy consists of a healthy mix of Retail Trade, Education and Health Services, Leisure & Hospitality. Mining and logging only consists of 0.3% of the economy.

But there is one threat that could derail the booming economy – the planned expansion of the Transfer Trail Mine (also known as the Mid-Continent Quarry) by Rocky Mountain Resources.

The mine currently has permission to mine 100,000 tons of limestone annually and permission to use 20 trucks per day. These operations are being conducted illegally: the company is extracting and selling common variety, non-locatable minerals in violation of federal law, mining outside its permitted limits, illegally drilling, developing unauthorized mine benches, and failing to meet stormwater management requirements, all without BLM response or action. Yet, the RMR company has now recently proposed increasing this to 5,000,000 tons per year and up to 500 trucks per day. This 5,000% increase would lead to large visual impacts, mire the town in truck traffic, damage the thriving tourist economy, and seriously impact the water quality and air quality for thousands of rural Coloradans.

The mine expansion is opposed by local businesses, the City of Glenwood Springs, and the bipartisan citizens group the Glenwood Springs Citizen Alliance ([www.LoveGlenwood.org](http://www.LoveGlenwood.org)). Although this RMR company has powerful backers, the Bureau of Land Management should fulfill its mission to halt illegal mining on public lands, and identify and prevent negative impacts on the quality of the human environment and the Glenwood Springs community.

While Glenwood has worked hard to diversify the local economy, a massive expansion of mining is not the answer. A tourist town and huge strip mining operation cannot coexist. The City of Glenwood Springs seeks federal help to protect our residents and small businesses, while preserving our history as a



vacation community special enough to host presidential visits and the largest Hot Springs in the United States. We ask key federal officials to halt non-compliance at the current mine, provide real public information for the community, require a full NEPA EIS process by BLM, and deny this mine expansion.

Please contact City Manager Debra Figueroa at 970-309-2492 or [Debra.figueroa@cogs.us](mailto:Debra.figueroa@cogs.us)